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Utah tax commissioner receives national award

Utah State Tax Commissioner R. Bruce Johnson received the Wade Anderson Memorial Medal for leadership in interstate tax cooperation.

The medal, awarded jointly by the Multistate Tax Commission (MTC) and the Federation of Tax Administrators (FTA), was presented last week at the annual MTC meeting in Topeka, Kansas. The award is given annually to the individual who best exemplifies commitment to interstate cooperation to promote fairness, simplicity, and consistency in state tax administration.

MTC officials commended Commissioner Johnson for his national leadership efforts to simplify and harmonize sales and use tax regimes among the states.

"Commissioner Johnson's national leadership on complicated tax issues continues to be a great asset to Utah," said Gov. Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. "I congratulate him on this well-deserved award."

Johnson has represented Utah for the past several years on the MTC executive committee and served two terms as chairman from 2003 to 2005. He also served as co-chair of the Implementing States of the Streamlined Sales Tax.

He was first appointed to the State Tax Commission in 1998 and reappointed to a third four-year term by Gov. Huntsman in July.

"Bruce has a masterful command of most tax issues, and he is particularly well-versed in areas of income and sales tax," said Pam Hendrickson, chair of the Utah State Tax Commission. "His knowledge and efforts regarding interstate tax cooperation is recognized by national experts."

Prior to his appointment to the Tax Commission, Johnson was a tax attorney for Holme Roberts & Owen and a trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice. He is a certified public accountant, holds an accounting degree from the University of Utah, and a law degree from Brigham Young University where he was a Reuben Clark Scholar.

About the award: The medal honors Wade Anderson, who spent 30 years in a variety of positions with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts and also served several more years as a tax attorney in the private sector. He was a founding member of the Border States Caucus of tax agencies in states along the U.S.-Mexico border and served as a member of the boards of the FTA and MTC. The Wade Anderson Memorial Medal was established after his death in 2003 to commemorate his tireless and creative efforts to promote interstate cooperation among tax agencies and between tax administrators and taxpayers.

About the organizations: The Federation of Tax Administrators is an association of the state tax agencies in the 50 states and District of Columbia with principal programs in information exchange, training, and intergovernmental coordination. The Multistate Tax Commission is an organization of state governments that works with taxpayers to administer, equitably and efficiently, tax laws that apply to multistate and multinational enterprises.

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